

HAWAIIAN GAZETTE

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Entered at the Postoffice of Honolulu, H. T., Second-Class matter.
Semi-Weekly—Issued Tuesdays and Fridays.
Subscription Rates:
Per Month.....\$.25 Per Month, Foreign.....\$.35
Per Year.....\$3.00 Per Year, Foreign.....\$4.00
Payable Invariably in Advance.
CHARLES S. CRANE, Manager.

FRIDAY MARCH 20

NOW FOR THE CIVIC CENTER.

The Mahuka site for the proposed federal building for Honolulu has been practically abandoned, after a fight more or less bitter for several years. The condemnation awards, unless sooner acted upon, expire by limitation in two weeks, and the government will have left only the insufficient portion of the site, bounded upon the principal side by backdoors and outbuildings. Upon this site the government will not erect its building. From the start the site was condemned by the architect who secured the contract to prepare the plans, by the supervising architect in the treasury department, by the secretary of the treasury who studied the matter some years ago, by five-sevenths of the voters of Honolulu, and at last the struggle to prevent the location of the building on an inadequate site and to prevent the sacrificing of a large part of the business section of Fort street has, apparently, been won.

Now, with the question reopened, the time has arrived for the carrying out of the plan first suggested by J. Mulford Robinson and since endorsed by many organizations and the majority of the citizens, namely the utilization of the very valuable opportunity that exists of establishing in Honolulu a Civic Center. This includes the purchase of the Irwin property on Palace Square between Richards and Milliani streets, the razing of the Opera House, the relocating of the extension of Merchant street and the building of the federal building on a line with the Judiciary building. The Irwin property is for sale and all the desired site could be purchased for what the sale of the present Mahuka site would realize.

The authorities in the treasury department and the architect are very favorable to the Irwin site. There is no real estate deal question about it. Those Honoluluans who have studied the matter from the viewpoint of modern city building or who have sufficient imagination to appreciate what the Palace Square could become are in favor of it. It is the logical site and the effort should be made now to secure it and the early commencement of work upon the federal building. Honolulu has wasted a number of years trying to make an unsuitable site possible. Let us now get together for a site that is both possible and suitable.

SUGAR IN THE PANAMA POT.

As was to be expected, the question of the transportation of Hawaiian sugar has its place in the congressional debate and the press discussion regarding the repeal of the Panama Canal Tolls Act. Some of the newspapers have it figured out that the consumer will not benefit from the free tolls and state that the transportation of Hawaiian sugar is in the hands of a monopoly, anyhow. One of the papers stating this the most emphatically was the El Paso Times, which says:

"Sugar is the largest item of tonnage that will pass through the Panama Canal. The Hawaiian Islands produce over 500,000 tons a year of raw sugar, which can only be carried to the United States by ships engaged in the coasting trade. Nearly all of this sugar must be marketed on the Atlantic coast, as domestic beet sugar factories supply the market of the Pacific coast states.

"The statistical reports of the department of commerce show that this sugar is now trans-shipped across the Tehuantepec railroad. It represents, in money value, nearly two-thirds of the entire east-bound traffic of that road, from the Pacific to the Atlantic side. It is shown in the statistical reports as consigned 'to Delaware Breakwater, for orders.' This would indicate that it is controlled by one owner or consignee, and is consigned in this way so it can be sent on to New York or diverted to Philadelphia refineries.

"This sugar is now paying for trans-shipment and the railroad haul across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec a considerably higher charge than the tolls it would pay for going through the Panama Canal. If, however, the owners of this sugar can get it through the canal free of tolls, they will enjoy a very handsome subsidy. The chances are very remote that the Hawaiian planters would get a penny of it, or that it would affect in the remotest degree the price of refined sugar in the United States.

"The steamship company which carries this sugar controls the water borne commerce between New York and San Francisco. In fact, it has almost a complete monopoly of this traffic. It is protected against foreign competition by the coasting laws, which forbid foreign ships from engaging in trade between the East and West coasts of the United States, by way of Panama or Tehuantepec. It charges the highest ocean rates in the world; only a little lower than the railroads charge for the haul across the continent. It charges nearly twice the rates that foreign lines ask from New York to Yokohama, Australia or Buenos Aires.

"There is no other large fleet of American ships in existence, to engage in competition with this 'sugar line,' in coasting trade through the canal. One company will therefore enjoy, in the form of free tolls, a very large subsidy in addition to the monopoly of traffic which it holds under the coasting laws.

"If we are violating our treaties to create this subsidy, it is a doubly serious proposition."

CUBA IS HAPPY, ANYWAY.

Naturally, Cuban sugar producers are rejoicing in the recent decision of the treasury department that Cuban sugars will continue to enjoy a twenty per cent differential on American exports until the day of free sugar arrives. El Dia of Havana voices the exultation this way:

"Yesterday cheering news was received in Havana. The attorney general of the United States decided in favor of the twenty per cent reduction in the new duties that are shortly to be collected on Cuban sugars."

"The case is simple. The Reciprocity Treaty between this country and the United States, which gave us the advantage of a twenty per cent reduction of the duties collected on sugars imported into the States, has not been abrogated, and the mooted question was whether the above rebate would continue in force when the new law reducing sugar duties by twenty-five per cent becomes effective.

"The highest representative of the law in the United States has said that it does, and the principal product of Cuban industry will from now on enjoy a reduction of twenty-five plus twenty per cent from the duties that have hitherto been collected on sugars entering the States. This is important news for us, and, if confirmed, may remove the unsatisfactory conditions among the producing classes that have developed during the present crop.

"Cuban sugars struggling in the American market without reciprocity would be a sad and serious complement to the low rendements and lower prices that are now prevailing, but reciprocity for these same sugars will be some defense against the low prices, and will furnish the factory owners, and above all, to the suffering colonos, the chance to hope for better days."

Americans in Mexico must be wearing better hats. We have not heard of a single one being murdered by Villa for three days.

CLEWS AND THE MONROE DOCTRINE.

Henry Clews, in his regular weekly market letter of March 7, devotes considerable attention to the foreign relations of Washington with the Powers interested with the United States in the Mexican question, these relations having, naturally, their direct effect upon American foreign trade and the values of American securities both at home and abroad. Mr. Clews also redirects attention to the history of the Monroe Doctrine and its British origin.

The financial expert notes favorable signs in recent market developments and reports heavy precipitation of rain and snow throughout the country, giving assurances of favorable soil conditions for the agriculturists. The monthly statements for February of the new incorporations in the Eastern States show business torpor, the new security issues for the month this year being just about one-half those of February a year ago.

"The Mexican situation still hangs over the market as a menace and a puzzle that only time will solve," writes Mr. Clews. "The policy of non-intervention to which Mr. Wilson so firmly adheres has much in its favor. No one wishes to see American blood and money wantonly shed for the purpose of settling quarrels in which we have no concern unless our interests are seriously jeopardized, a stage which has not yet been reached. Much has been gained by the calm and friendly attitude of Great Britain; which plainly approves our present policy though intent on securing reparation for the killing of Benton later on; possibly when order is restored and claims can be legitimately presented and more effectively enforced.

"To me the best course is plain. I would suggest that an earnest effort be made to bring Huerta and Carranza together; that a Provisional President be appointed, and that these two heads of opposing parties be suitably recognized in some official capacity. The time is ripe for mediation. Both parties must realize that there are limits to their successes; that by keeping up the struggle both are likely to lose; that intervention will mean their ruin, and that no lasting peace can be secured that does not protect the life and property of the citizens of all nations. It will do good to neither side to keep up a prolonged irritation against the United States, for if intervention is pressed upon us, it will go hard with those who drive us into such a costly and unnecessary struggle.

"Indirectly this Mexican difficulty is playing a very important part in our foreign relations. Britain's exhibition of friendliness and patience has visibly strengthened the entente cordiale between the two nations, and this notwithstanding the strain recently imposed by our inclination to disregard the Panama Treaty. President Wilson's open determination to stand by that treaty as a matter of national honor, will tend to make the rapprochement dictated on both sides by intelligent self-interest and common honesty. Since there are several important questions between the United States and Great Britain requiring solution, such a state of mutual understanding is exceedingly fortunate, and bodes well for a final adjustment of differences, satisfactory to both sides.

"As a nation we are exceedingly sensitive about the Monroe Doctrine, the indefinite claims of which are always a source of possible international difficulty. It may not be generally known that this doctrine really originated with Canning, the Prime Minister of England, in the early days of this Republic, who as an offset to the threatening powers of the Holy Alliance suggested this policy to the American Minister in London. He in turn promptly forwarded the suggestion to Washington, where its value was quickly recognized by President Monroe and his cabinet. The latter's memorable pronouncement followed declaring our intentions in regard to countries south of us. Great Britain has consequently always been friendly to any reasonable interpretation of the Monroe Doctrine, more so than Germany or any other European power, and her endorsement undoubtedly strengthens our ability to enforce it.

"Nevertheless, the Monroe Doctrine is a claim of much vagueness and many dangerous possibilities; a claim that should be exercised with much discretion until more keenly defined. It is exceedingly unpopular with all nations in South America, who naturally do not relish our playing the Big Policeman without their consent. Nor do some of the Great Powers like our standing in the way of their colonial ambitions. As they become more thickly populated the national land hunger will increase, and the overflow of population may seek new fields in South America. Such a development is of much economic importance to the United States; hence the necessity of an interpretation of the Monroe Doctrine which will encourage and not discourage the commercial growth of that vast and rich territory."

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.

Robert Earl, testifying February 25, before the legislative graft probe commission at Albany hit the keynote of the cause of the gigantic scandals in New York, when he said that what are needed in charge of great public works are executive heads, not engineers or other technicians. Hawaii's experience leads to the same conclusion. If the public business could be transacted in the same way as private enterprise there would be an immense saving of the public funds, lower taxes, and a reduction of the ponderous machinery of government in all departments.

No enterprise for profit could live or continue to do business on the theory that employment of men at good salaries is of more importance than the labor that those men perform.

Government is very properly a profession but there should be training for that profession. The head of a private enterprise is expected to have a grasp of every branch of his business in all its relationships. Government, on the contrary, is too diffuse. Formerly it was said that if a man could not make a living at his trade he could become a farmer. The present-day notion is to get a government job. Many citizens in the community look on government employment as a safe harbor in which they can drop anchor, grow barnacles and be forever protected from the tempestuous storms of life. Having attained safe anchorage they strenuously combat the idea of again sailing the open seas.

If men in government employ give full value, as labor, as brains, as energy, they serve the purpose for which they have been selected, but unfortunately for the public service it is difficult to keep such public servants. Men who are high powered, energetic, efficient, usually see bigger things in private life, in battling the waves and winds, matching the staunchness of their timbers and the energy of their boiler capacity and coal consumption against the free currents of trade. The rewards are bigger for success even if there is more danger of being wrecked and losing all.

There are too many scows anchored in Hawaii's governmental haven of rest, a great many of them with sound timbers, watertight and perfectly fit to be freight carriers, producers of wealth instead of consumers.

The employment of superfluous public servants is as much "graft" as allowing men to have a "rake-off" out of the public treasury.

They need a man like Kellett at the Volcano Road jail, the official reports from there showing the half-finished nature of the jobs they do. For instance, Sheriff Pua, reporting on the recent beating up of a prisoner, tells of an amateur effort as follows:

On the 30th day of July, A. D. 1913, Araki, a prisoner, was assaulted and beaten by one Oliver Akau. He was beaten so that blood flowed from his nose and mouth, and both of his eyes were blackened, and as a consequence he fell to the ground and was picked up by the said Oliver Akau by the back of the neck and rushed to a room known to the lunas as "Dark Cell," and was kept there for forty-eight hours.

Now Kellett uses a slung-shot when he gets to work, and picks out little Filipinos and Koreans, upon whom proper effort is not wasted. Such squeamishness as was displayed at the Volcano jail must make him smile.

AS OTHERS SEE US.

To see ourselves as others see us is sometimes interesting and frequently instructive. Under existing circumstances, while we are watching and waiting, it is particularly interesting to know in what light we appear to the Huerta wing of the Mexican population, and a new publication in the City of Mexico, which is called "Mister Lind" affords us every opportunity to find out. The first copy of "Mister Lind" appeared on the streets of the City of Mexico a few days after President Wilson had lifted the embargo on the export of arms to Northern Mexico. The cover design of the periodical presents President Wilson as a sow ridden by a Mexican who is hanging on to a sureline showing the Mexican colors and bearing the legend "200,000 hombres." In explaining its choice of names for itself, "Mister Lind" says by way of salutory:

The name of "Mister Lind" is a symbol; when it sounds in the ears of a good Mexican it seems as though a sinister bird passed or a serpent hissed. That name personifies the common enemy, erstwhile hypocritical, today avowed, whom we have on the other side of the Rio Bravo. That syllable, those four sonorous letters Lind, would be for us a Biblical handwriting on the wall had we not faith in our generation, which we believe able to put a straitjacket on the lunatic of the White House.

We repeat, "Mister Lind" is a symbol, the incarnation of the heartless and shameless traffickers who have been born in Pigo-polis, of that vile mass of mercenaries who traffic in the blood of the races who have deserved well in the history of Art, of Heroism and of Sacrifice.

To say "Mister Lind" is equivalent, though not referring to the one armed spy in Vera Cruz, to evoking in two words that legion of blond Carthaginians whose eruption menaces but does not frighten us.

For that reason is this paper called Mister Lind, for it is to be the clarion calling us to watch the White Pig that would devour us. Woodrow Wilson, the temporizer, the meticulous, the unbalanced, who has traced no line of policy, shall see in these pages the reflection of our national sentiment boiling with righteous wrath against his criminal conduct which is costing us so dearly.

HOME-BUYING AND PARCEL POST.

Home-buying in comparison with buying from mail-order houses is a live issue all over the United States. The catalog houses are doing an enormous business. Their gross sales and profits are increasing more rapidly than in almost any other strictly mercantile line. As an illustration, the gross sales of Sears, Roebuck and Company amounted to \$91,350,000 in 1913 as against \$77,100,000 in 1912. Their net profits for 1913 were over nine million dollars, or, earnings at the rate of 21.17 per cent on the forty millions of common stock after the seven per cent dividends on preferred stock had been deducted. The net profits on gross sales amounted to slightly over ten per cent.

Another concern, the F. W. Woolworth Company, of New York, sold \$66,000,000 of five-cent and ten-cent articles, and paid a ten per cent dividend amounting to six million dollars on its common stock.

The "home buying" campaign has proved a tremendous advertisement for its chief competitor. As a result the mutual commercial advantages of the mail order concern—to the city investor and the country consumer—have been emphasized as never before.

An increasingly large percentage of business failures during 1912 and 1913 among small country storekeepers, as reported by Dun's and Bradstreet's, is considered to be due to this comparatively new and destructive form of competition. A country merchant who carries a five-thousand-dollar stock of general merchandise cannot subsist on a net margin of from seven to ten per cent profit on his capital stock. The field of the country merchant is being narrowed to traffic in staples only because his customers can and do buy all other classes of merchandise and manufactured goods, tools and agricultural implements at as low a figure from the big catalogue houses as the merchant himself can get from the wholesale houses. The country merchant has to charge twenty-five to forty per cent as against the department store's twelve to twenty per cent on a basis cost valuation that is higher than his big competitor's.

Then too, the government parcel post and the express company competitive rates favor the big city merchant rather than the country storekeeper. The mail and express order houses undersell the country merchant. Such concerns consider a ten per cent net profit on gross business exceedingly satisfactory whereas to the small merchant a ten per cent margin does not yield a living profit. For these reasons the home-buying campaign as applied to small towns and communities is doomed to failure.

The small merchant in the city is not particularly affected and there is every indication that the number of city stores both big and little will increase during the next decade. Parcel post and other remedial legislation enacted for the purpose of ameliorating the condition of the farmer and reducing the high cost of living promise to make conditions hard for country merchants and will ultimately lead to far greater congestion of city population, thereby defeating the very ends for which the "reforms" were enacted.

THE BUNGALOW AS A CITY HALL.

Governor Pinkham's suggestion that the Bungalow be utilized by the officials of the city and county as municipal headquarters for the time being is an excellent one. A little paint and some remodeling would make of the Bungalow a perfectly satisfactory city hall until such time as the necessity for strict economy in municipal affairs is less pressing. Naturally the honorable mayor and the supervisors want a real city hall, with all the trimmings, but there are at least seven hundred different things the city requires more than an ornate structure in which to house the governing body. By moving its offices into the Bungalow the city will be able to save a good many thousand dollars which would otherwise go to pay rent. We heartily second the Governor's suggestion and urge the acceptance of it by the supervisors, in the interest of economy.

THE PASSING HOUR.

The immigration inspectors on the Coast may be acting according to law, but it is mighty poor law that would allow the members of the All-Chinese baseball team of Hawaii to be held up at San Francisco by guards that probably speak less pure English and know less of the history and law of the country than the American-Chinese they would keep out. It is equally a poor law that made possible the deportation from Seattle of the wife of an American government physician, serving in the Orient, because she had been before marriage a Japanese subject. The woman in question is the wife of Dr. J. E. McDaniels, now surgeon on board a government vessel at Manila, and she was on her way to visit her husband's relatives in Independence, Oregon. She is an educated, cultured woman, but that did not prevent her from becoming the victim of Caminetti's men at Seattle, nor save her from the indignity of being held in confinement and finally deported because she refused to make a special appeal to Washington.

Honolulu set a splendid example to other Irish communities on the Seventeenth, when it held a celebration in the afternoon at which everyone wore yellow leis and another celebration in the evening at which green leis were the fashion, and there was never a clash between the orange and the green.

Here's new politics for you. The wife of the sheriff of San Francisco county has brought suit for divorce and announced at the same time that she will circulate a recall petition against him. Her assumption is that a man who is not fit to be a husband is not fit to be a public official.

OLDEST WOMAN IN HONOLULU DEAD

Mrs. Martha A. Hewett Nearing
Her Ninety-fifth Birthday
When Had Came.

As the result of an accident some months ago, from which extreme old age prevented recovery, Mrs. Martha A. Hewett, probably the oldest person in Honolulu, died at her home yesterday morning. Had she lived until the seventh of next month she would have entered her ninety-fifth year. For twenty years she had been a resident of Honolulu, living with her daughter, Mrs. H. E. Wally, of Kaimukoo lane, off Keeaumoku street, from which place the funeral services will be held this morning at ten o'clock.

Mrs. Hewett was born April 7, 1820, in Vermont, and when sixteen years old traveled overland by wagon with her parents to Illinois. Through the pioneer days of that State she lived, sharing the exciting times experienced by the early settlers with prairie fires, Indian forays and like incidents. In Illinois she married, remaining in the State until 1888, when she came west to the State of Washington. Six years later she resolved to come still farther west to join her daughter here, the only one of her children living. Friends tried to persuade her against making the long trip at her age, seventy-four, while her physician told her she need not expect to reach Hawaii alive.

Praised Hawaiian Climate.

She was very feeble when first she landed in Hawaii, but soon grew strong, and thereafter, almost until the day of her death, she declared that the Hawaiian climate would permit her to round out a century of life. It is not improbable that she would have lived to celebrate her one hundredth birthday had she not fallen a short time ago and fractured her chest. The old lady, always ambitious, had climbed upon a chair to arrange some curtains. The chair tipped and she fell heavily, but despite her serious injuries she made no mention of the accident to her daughter until the next day, when the pain of the broken bones forced her to give up. From the effects of that accident she never recovered.

An Advertiser Reader.

Practically up to the last she maintained an active interest in all that went on about her. She was a constant reader of The Advertiser, and occasionally sent communications to it on local topics. Up until the time of her accident she attended church regularly and kept up a voluminous correspondence with mainland relatives and friends, sometimes writing as many as six or seven letters a day.

Besides her daughter, Mrs. Wally, she leaves seven grandchildren and a number of great-grandchildren.

Taking of Testimony in Trial of Alleged White Slaver Will Begin This Morning.

It required two days in the federal court, Judge Charles F. Clemons presiding, to select a jury for the second trial of the case of the United States against George A. (Bert) Bower, who is charged with a statutory offense. The jury which was accepted at four o'clock yesterday afternoon is made up as follows:

A. N. Oremba, D. F. Thum, S. T. Carr, Albert F. Afong, H. S. Gray, Arthur H. Rice, O. C. Scott, James G. Spencer, G. J. Boies, A. H. R. Viera, Justus Hofgaard and A. Wolf.

John S. Walker was excused for cause, his statement that he had not been feeling well all day and that he felt an attack of grippe or something akin to it coming on. He thought that the grippe would break on him in a day or so and did not care to delay the trial of the case at bar. Judge Clemons took a favorable view of the matter and excused Mr. Walker.

During the two days spent in selecting the jury the prosecution exercised only two peremptory challenges out of the six it was entitled to, and the excused juror George H. Cowan and Carl H. Nieper, while the defense exercised nine out of the ten allowed it, W. L. Hopper, John H. Soper, Ramsey Scott, J. H. Atherton, D. W. Anderson, A. Hocking, E. O. White, James Steiner and William Thompson being excused.

The taking of evidence in this case will begin at ten o'clock this morning, but the end of the trial is not expected before the middle of next week. The first trial of this case resulted in a hung jury, the jury having been out six hours in a vain attempt to arrive at a verdict. District Attorney Jeff McCann, assisted by J. W. Thompson, who is to become assistant district attorney, will represent the government, the defense being in the hands of Attorneys E. A. Douthitt and Leon M. Straus.

TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION TO HOLD MEETING

Prof. M. B. Baizos, president of the Territorial Teachers' Association, has called a meeting of this organization to be held at the McKinley High School at two o'clock this afternoon.

During the meeting Dr. J. F. Illingworth of the College of Hawaii and Mrs. C. L. Bolton from Cambridge University will deliver interesting and instructive lectures on timely educational topics.

One other attraction at the meeting this afternoon will be the performance of the McKinley High School Glee Club, which will render a number of songs for the entertainment of the teachers and guests of honor.

The return in the divorce suit of Sadie Thiel against George P. Thiel was made yesterday in the office of the chief clerk of the first circuit court, showing that service of the complaint had been made on the libellee.